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The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" I cannot say off-hand. I shall be very glad to give the information to the hon. Member."

Prisons and Prisoners

Resolution passed by the public of Tinnevelly recommending Mr. Devanayagayya, to be placed in the ' B ' class.

* 328 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of a resolution passed by the public of Tinnevelly at a meeting requesting the Government to change the class of Mr. S. A. Devanayagayya, Member, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, now a prisoner in the Trichinopoly Central Jail, from C to B class; if so, on what grounds was the recommendation made; and what the reply of the Government was; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he has been keeping ill-health?

A.—(*a*) Yes. It was urged that a change in the class was necessary in the interest of justice and humanity. The Government saw no reason to classify the prisoner in " B " class.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—" Will the Government call for information regarding the present state of health of Mr. Devanayagayya? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" I have no objection."

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—" Will the Government consider it an act of kindness to see that the classification of this prisoner is changed? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" It is not a question of any kindness. It is a question of the observance of the rules."

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—" Kindness in view of the fact that the present state of health of the prisoner is not satisfactory? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" If his present state of health is really not satisfactory, that matter will be considered."

Irrigation

Proposals for the improvement of irrigation sources in Malabar and South Kanara.

* 329 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have called for proposals from the Collectors of Malabar and South Kanara for the improvement of irrigation sources in those districts;

(*b*) whether the Government have approved of any minor irrigation schemes in the two districts and, if so, what they are and what the amounts sanctioned for them are;

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(*c*) whether the grant received from the Government of India for the development of minor irrigation is not available to undertake works calculated to provide better facilities for the utilization of natural sources of supply of water for irrigation purposes; and

(*d*) whether proposals to undertake such works have been called for or received from the Collectors of South Kanara and Malabar?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to question No. 216 and the supplementary questions thereunder on the 10th August 1935, and also to the answer to question No. 293. In submitting proposals for the selection of works to be included in the special accelerated and widespread programme of improvements to minor works of irrigation to be financed from the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs set apart for the purpose on a 3-year plan, the Board of Revenue observed that the scheme did not benefit the districts of South Kanara, Malabar and the Nilgiris as there were no irrigation works in those districts, and asked the Collectors of those districts to suggest schemes, if any, for providing employment for the rural population in their districts. Proposals were submitted by the Collectors concerned to the Board of Revenue which examined them and concluded that there were no schemes suitable for inclusion in the programme. Subsequently the Collector of South Kanara suggested that though there were no irrigation works in his district, other public works such as roads, bridges, etc., might be undertaken, but the proposal was not accepted by Government as the funds earmarked for the special programme could not be utilized for other purposes.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"It is stated in the answer that there were no schemes suitable for inclusion in the programme. May I know what proposals were submitted in the first instance by the Collector of South Kanara?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I think I should clarify the position as regards the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs. I should like the House to understand definitely that the sum is to be spent on improvements and repairs to the existing works of irrigation. New irrigation works cannot be financed from this sum of Rs. 50 lakhs. Any schemes outside the programme of improvements or repairs to the existing irrigation works cannot be considered in connexion with this grant. I may say at once that if any other schemes are feasible on other grounds for which other money may be spent, I am willing to consider them."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Member will be pleased to tell us whether the Collector or the Landholders' Association or the district board or the municipality or any other body has reported to the Government that there are any schemes for South Kanara which can be financed out of this money?"

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The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I think my answer to the previous question covers this too."

Belated supply of water to Tanjore from the Mettur Reservoir.

* 330 *Q.*—Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Tanjore District Delta Mirasidars' and Landowners' Association made urgent representations to the Collector and the Superintending Engineer about the precarious condition of crops due to insufficient supply of water;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department authorities announced to open the Mettur Dam on the 1st of June 1935;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that water was let down from the Mettur Dam only on the morning of the 22nd July 1935 and what the delay is due to; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that on account of failure to let down water in due time the irrigated fields have got dried up resulting in serious loss to landowners?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No. Water was let down from 12th June 1935. That was four days earlier than the date fixed in rule 2 of the draft rules published with G.O. No. 2671 I., dated 6th December 1933.

(*d*) There has been a reduction in the supply of water for irrigation in the Tanjore delta this season, as the storage in the reservoir at the beginning of the season was very low and slips in the revetment of the low-level channel on three different occasions necessitated a reduction in supply for about seven days. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation who toured in the delta from the 2nd to the 6th August 1935 in that connexion has reported as follows:—

" From the impression I formed during the tour, I am of opinion that in the portion of the delta south of Mayavaram, no appreciable damage has been done to the kuruvai crops, kuruvai seedlings or samba seedlings, except postponement of the kuruvai transplantation by about four to seven days in the lower reaches. At the tail end portions of the delta to the north of Mayavaram and east of railway line, a portion of the kuruvai seedlings would have withered and it was to hasten up the transplantation here that special steps were taken to force down water to the Cauvery lower reaches and the Palavar."